

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 25003

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CA, EG

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECSTATE TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MACEACHEN.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR ALLAN: I AM WRITING TO YOU ABOUT A PROBLEM FOR WHICH I AM SURE WE SHARE CONCERN. IT RELATES TO THE PROGRESSIVE AND STABILIZING ROLE PLAYED BY EGYPT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EGYPT'S CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING A HEALTHY COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE REGION.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, PRESIDENT SADAT INHERITED MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN THAT IT WISHES TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON RECONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE TASK, ESPECIALLY IF EGYPT RECEIVES SUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE.

4. AS YOU ARE ALSO AWARE, EGYPT LACKS SUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO SUSTAIN ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND UNDERTAKE A LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. EGYPT NEEDS IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COVER ITS REQUIREMENTS EVEN FOR THE CURRENT STANDARD OF LIVING OF ITS PEOPLE.

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5. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT TO ASSIST EGYPT. OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT 900 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR AND WE PLAN THE SAME LEVEL FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. AS PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE, WE ARE GIVING EGYPT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND TRANSITIONAL QUARTER 1.25 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR ON VIRTUALLY GRANT TERMS, 40 YEAR REPAYMENT, 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD, 2 TO 3 PERCENT INTEREST.

6. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WOULD PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF WHEAT ON GRANT OR CONCESSIONAL LOAN TERMS TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM OF SOME URGENCY AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

8. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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